

Small Business Office Success Story
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June 22, 2004

Northern New Mexico Tree-Thinning Company Receives Great Reviews from Laboratory End User

"We are very pleased with the work this company has done and look forward to doing more work with its personnel in the future," said Phoebe Suina, Project Team Lead for Facility & Waste Operations (FWO) Division, Infrastructure Projects. Suina is referring to the work of Hurd Brothers Logging, a small Northern New Mexico, HUBZone company out of Chama. The family-owned business has recently completed a \$115 thousand tree-thinning project for the Laboratory's FWO Division.

"The project began in late April and the five-man crew of Hurd Brothers logging successfully completed the project within two and a half weeks," said Suina. "That time frame was very satisfactory to our expectations, because I was expecting a crew to take 3-5 weeks to thin the 100 acres of forest land required for the project."

Hurd Brothers Logging is currently owned by Andrew and Daniel Hurd. The company began back in 1968 by their father Mel Hurd. It was in 1996 when Andrew and Daniel bought the business from their father. They have since performed work for both the government and private industry.

"We have done work with the Laboratory in the past," said Andrew. "We began providing tree-thinning services to Los Alamos in 2002 for the Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project. In the past 2 years, we have thinned about 1,800 acres of forest and processed saw wood and fire logs."

The most recent project that the Hurd Brothers completed was the Rendija Canyon project, where they performed mechanical tree-thinning services and harvested trees. The company was awarded the \$115 thousand contract on a competitive bid back in March and began work on April 26, 2004.

"Our working relationship with the company has been great," said Suina. "We are very satisfied with the way they performed their services when it came to safety, security, and flexibility of incorporating Laboratory policies and procedures into their everyday work duties."

Andrew states that this recent contract came at an ideal time. "Usually during the Spring, there is no work for our company because the ground is still wet in the higher elevations, such as Chama," said Andrew. "However, this contract enabled us to work during a time when we usually stay at home with no income coming into our pockets because the forest is dryer in Los Alamos."

The Hurd Brothers are currently partnering with the National Forest Service on a Biomass project for the Jemez Mountain School District. The project entails fire

mitigation services and finding ways to use small-diameter wood chips in a boiler system to heat the school. Andrew adds that the company is also working for smaller mills that ship wood to Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Alamosa, Colorado.

To find out more about Hurd Brothers Logging, you can e-mail Andrew Hurd at ahurd@cvn.com



Left: Before tree thinning in Rendija Canyon.

Right: After tree thinning in Rendija Canyon.

Photos Courtesy of Shannon Smith (FWO)



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